

Michigan Department of Career Development Office of Career and Technical Preparation

Area Career and Technical Education Programs

Introduction

The establishment of Area Career and Technical Education Programs was initiated in Michigan during the mid-1960's to improve and expand opportunities for secondary students to access quality Career and Technical Education programs. The "area" concept emphasizes cooperative arrangements between two or more education agencies, or between high schools within large districts for the purpose of operating jointly-shared Career and Technical Education programs designed to serve students in the participating education agencies. By pooling students and resources, education agencies are able to provide a broader array of curriculum offerings than is possible on a single district basis.

Definition

An Area Career and Technical Education Program is a cooperative arrangement specifically designated by the Michigan Department of Career Development between two or more education agencies, or between high schools within large districts, for the purpose of operating jointly-shared career and technical education programs to serve students in the participating education agencies. The programs may be financed and operated by intermediate school districts on behalf of the constituent districts or by consortium resolution/agreement among participating education agencies. Most Area Centers receive a local millage. Area programs may be housed in centralized area center buildings, in decentralized locations at existing high school buildings, a community college, business/industry locations, or a combination of these arrangements.

Designation Procedures

A unique characteristic of an Area Career and Technical Education Program is the requirement for formal "area" designation by the Michigan Department of Career Development (formerly this designation was given by the Michigan Department of Education). Currently, education agencies desiring to explore establishment of an area program should contact the Office of Career and Technical Preparation as the planning process is being developed to obtain technical assistance for securing designation at 517.373.3373.